



07-CV-01777-CMP

FILED ENTERED  
LODGED RECEIVED  
NOV - 1 2007 DJ  
AT SEATTLE  
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

BENNETT HASELTON, an  
individual; PEACEFIRE, INC., a  
Washington corporation,

Plaintiffs,

v.

QUICKEN LOANS, INC, a Michigan  
corporation; and JOHN DOES, I-X,

Defendants.

NO. C07-1777 MJZ

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES  
UNDER THE CAN-SPAM ACT OF  
2003 (15 U.S.C. §7701 ET SEQ.); THE  
WASHINGTON CONSUMER  
PROTECTION ACT (RCW 19.86 ET  
SEQ.); THE WASHINGTON  
COMMERCIAL ELECTRONIC  
MAIL ACT (RCW 19.190 ET SEQ.);

[JURY DEMAND]

COME NOW, plaintiffs Bennett Haselton, and Peacefire, Inc. and bring this COMPLAINT  
against defendants named herein. Plaintiffs allege the following on information and belief:

I. PARTIES

I.1 Plaintiff Bennett Haselton ("Haselton") is an individual who is and was a resident  
of King County, an individual internet user with personal email accounts registered in  
Washington, and also doing business as an interactive computer service and an internet  
access service under the name of Peacefire.org, during all times relevant hereto.

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND PENALTIES, ; -

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HASELTON v. QUICKEN LOANS, INC., ET AL

I.JUSTICE LAW, PC  
PO Box 25817  
Seattle, WA 98165-1317  
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SEA 13141 SJJ

1 I.2 Plaintiff Peacefire, Inc. ("Peacefire") is a Washington corporation, and is an  
2 interactive computer service and an internet access service with its principle place of  
3 business King County, Washington, d/b/a Peacefire.org.

4 I.3 Defendants John Does: This Complaint will be amended to more accurately  
5 identify defendants once such information is ascertained.

6 I.4 Defendant Quicken Loans, Inc. ("Quicken"), on information and belief, is a  
7 Michigan corporation, with its principal place of business located at: 30600  
8 TELEGRAPH ROAD BINGHAM FARMS MI 48025, and doing business as: Quicken  
9 Loans.

10 I.5 The actions alleged herein to have been undertaken by the defendants were  
11 undertaken by each defendant individually, were actions of which each defendant had  
12 had knowledge and that each defendant authorized, controlled, directed, or had the ability  
13 to authorize, control or direct, and/or were actions each defendant assisted and/or  
14 participated in, and are actions for which each defendant is liable. Each defendant aided,  
15 abetted, assisted, and conspired with the actions of each other defendant herein in that  
16 each defendant had knowledge of those actions, provided assistance and benefited from  
17 those actions, in whole or in part. Each of the defendants was the agent of each of the  
18 other defendants, and in committing those acts herein alleged, was acting within the  
19 course and scope of such agency and with the permission and consent of other  
20 defendants.

## 21 II. JURISDICTION

22 Plaintiff realleges all preceding paragraphs herein and incorporates them herein as if set  
23 forth in full.

24 2.1 Plaintiff and Defendants are residents of different states, and the unlawful actions of the  
25 defendants were committed in the States of Washington and Michigan, including, but not  
limited to the judicial district of this Court. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C.  
§1391.

1 2.2 The Defendants regularly transact business within the state of Washington by virtue of  
2 the fact that they regularly send commercial bulk emails into the State, which emails are  
3 received on computers and other electronic devices owned and maintained by residents of  
4 the State in the State.

5 2.3 As a result of the Defendants' acts and transactions within the State of Washington, this  
6 Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendants under RCW 4.28.185(1)(a).

7 2.4 The causes of action complained of herein include allegations that commercial electronic  
8 messages sent to the Plaintiffs as a result of the acts of the Defendants and a conspiracy  
9 in which the Defendants played a significant part, violate 15 U.S.C. §7701 et seq., RCW  
10 19.190 et seq., the Washington Commercial Electronic Mail Act (CEMA) and RCW  
11 19.86 et seq. the Washington State Consumer Protection Act (CPA), and includes a  
12 prayer for relief in excess of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

13 2.5 Jurisdiction is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 (federal question) and 28 U.S.C.  
14 §1332 (diversity).

### 15 **III. General Allegations**

16 Plaintiff realleges all preceding paragraphs herein and incorporates them herein as if  
17 set forth in full.

18 3.1 Plaintiff Haselton is the owner and registrant of the internet domain  
19 "peacefire.org" (hereinafter referred to as a "Domain")

20 3.2 Peacefire.org is an "interactive computer service" as that term is defined in RCW  
21 19.190.010 (7), and an "internet access service" as that term is defined in 15 U.S.C.  
22 §7701 et seq.

23 3.3 Through Peacefire.org Haselton provides or enables computer access by multiple  
24 users to a computer server that hosts the "peacefire.org" domain name and further  
25 provides electronic mail accounts to individuals utilizing the "peacefire.org" domain  
name for electronic messaging.

3.4 Plaintiff Haselton is a user of the interactive computer service provided by  
peacefire.org, and maintains an electronic mail message account with that domain

1 name under the address 'bennett@peacefire.org', as well as the email address  
2 'bhas@speakeasy.net' (collectively the "Recipient Addresses").

3 3.5 At all times material hereto, for the Domains and each of them, the information  
4 that all e-mail addresses at each Domain, the Recipient Addresses, belong to a  
5 Washington resident was and is available upon request from the registrant of each  
6 Domain, each registrant being a Washington resident and each address and Domain  
7 being registered with a Washington residency.

8 3.6 On information and belief, the Defendants have conspired with unknown third  
9 parties to initiate the transmission of numerous commercial email messages  
10 directed to and through Plaintiff Haselton's interactive computer service, and/or  
11 addressed to Plaintiff Haselton's email addresses.

12 3.7 These unknown third parties initiate the transmission of these commercial email  
13 messages include among those commercial email messages commercial email  
14 messages that contain advertisements for loans.

15 3.8 On information and belief, consumers respond to these advertisements in these  
16 commercial email messages and thereby provide the consumer's contact  
17 information to these unknown third parties.

18 3.9 On information and belief, these unknown third parties then sell this contact  
19 information to various unknown entities, which include the Defendants.

20 3.10 In this manner, the Defendants provide the financial incentive for these third  
21 parties to initiate the transmission of these commercial email messages, and  
22 thereby participate in a conspiracy that results in the transmission of these  
23 commercial email messages.

24 3.11 The Defendants have general knowledge that the third parties from whom they  
25 buy the consumer contact information gather that information by transmitting  
commercial email messages that violate 5 U.S.C. §7701 et seq., because they have  
previously been sued in the United States Federal Courts for engaging in this  
conduct.

3.12 The Defendants have specific knowledge that the third parties from whom they  
buy the consumer contact information gather that information by transmitting

1 commercial email messages to parties including the Plaintiff, and that those  
2 commercial electronic messages violate RCW 19.190 et seq., the Washington  
3 Commercial Electronic Mail Act (CEMA) and RCW 19.86 et seq. the  
4 Washington State Consumer Protection Act (CPA), because the Plaintiff has  
5 contacted the Defendant and placed them on notice of the forgoing facts.

6 3.13 At all times material hereto, for the Domains and each of them, the information  
7 that all e-mail addresses at each Domain (the "Recipient Addresses") belong to  
8 Washington residents, including Plaintiff Haselton's, was and is available upon  
9 request from the registrant of each Domain, each registrant being a Washington  
10 resident and each Domain being registered with a Washington address.

11 3.14 During the period 2005 to the present, Plaintiffs received at the Domains  
12 electronic-mail messages (collectively the "E-mails" or individually and  
13 generically as an "E-mail").

14 3.15 The E-mails, and each of them, were received by Plaintiffs at the Domains,  
15 and/or on individual Plaintiff's email accounts, and on their computers, including,  
16 but not limited to the email account and computer of Haselton.

17 3.16 Each of the E-mails misrepresents or obscures information in identifying the  
18 point of origin or the transmission path thereof, and contains header information  
19 that is materially false or materially misleading. The misrepresentations include,  
20 without limitation: the use of multiple rotating domains, domains which are  
21 registered using hidden, false or misleading information.

22 3.17 Plaintiffs provided Defendants with notice to cease and desist conspiring with  
23 others in sending spam E-mails to them, which notice was ignored, and  
24 Defendants have continued to conspire with unknown third parties who have  
25 continued to send unlawful E-mails to Plaintiffs subsequent to 10 days following  
the notice to cease and desist in direct violation of 15 U.S.C. §7701 et seq.

3.11 Defendant initiated the transmission of the E-mails, and each of them. In  
the alternative, Defendant conspired or otherwise acted in collusion with another  
or others or assisted another or others to transmit the E-mails, and each of them.

3.12 At all times material hereto, Defendants knew or had reason to know that the Recipient Addresses, and each of them, were and are held by a Washington resident.

#### IV. Causes of Action

##### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION – CAN-SPAM ACT

(15 U.S.C. §7701 et seq.)

4.1 On the basis of the facts set forth hereinabove, Defendants initiated the transmission of the E-mails, and each of them, to a protected computer in violation of 15 U.S.C. §7704(a), causing damage to Plaintiff Peacefire as the provider of the Internet access service receiving each such E-mail in the amount of \$100 for each such E-mail, as provided in 15 U.S.C. §7706 (g) (3).

4.1.1 Defendants did willfully and knowingly so act in violation of the provisions of 15 U.S.C. §7701 et seq.

##### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION – CEMA

(RCW 19.190.010 - .070)

4.2 On the basis of the facts set forth hereinabove, Defendants initiated, conspired with another to initiate, or assisted the transmission of the E-mails, and each of them, in violation of RCW 19.190.020, causing damage to Plaintiffs Peacefire and Haselton as the interactive computer services receiving each such E-mail in the amount of \$1,000 for each such E-mail, and to Plaintiff Haselton individually in the amount of \$500 for each such E-mail directed to and received at Haselton's E-mail address, as provided in RCW 19.190.040(1) and (2).

##### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION – CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

(RCW 19.86)

4.3 On the basis of the facts set forth hereinabove, Defendants initiated the E-mails, and each of them, in violation of RCW 19.190.030 and Chapter 19.86 RCW, causing damage to Plaintiffs as the recipients of each such E-mail in an amount to be

1 proven at trial, including, but not limited to, treble damages. Defendants' acts as  
2 described hereinabove constituted unfair and deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of  
3 trade or commerce, which acts or practices caused injury to Plaintiffs, and as such  
4 constitute independent violations of RCW 19.86 et seq.

5 **5. Demand For Jury.** Plaintiff demands that this cause be tried to a jury.

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8 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

9 Plaintiff, Haselton prays for relief as follows:

- 10 Entry of a Judgment in favor of Plaintiffs Peacefire, and Haselton against the Defendants  
11 in the amount of \$1,100 per unlawful E-mail, plus such other and further damages as may  
12 be proved at trial, plus treble damages to the extent permitted by Chapter 19.86 RCW and  
13 to the extent permitted by 15 U.S.C. §7706 (g) (3) (C), plus prejudgment and post-  
14 judgment interest at the highest rate permitted by law, plus cost of suit and reasonable  
15 attorney fees pursuant to Chapter 19.86 RCW and 15 U.S.C. §7706 (g) (4);
- 16 3. Entry of a Judgment in favor of Plaintiff Haselton individually against the Defendants in  
17 the amount of \$500 per unlawful E-mail, plus such other and further damages as may be  
18 proved at trial, plus treble damages to the extent permitted by Chapter 19.86 RCW plus  
19 prejudgment and post-judgment interest at the highest rate permitted by law, plus cost of  
20 suit and reasonable attorney fees pursuant to Chapters 19.190 et seq., and 19.86 RCW.;
- 21 4. Entry of a permanent injunction against the Defendants prohibiting the Defendants from  
22 sending or causing to be sent electronic mail messages of any kind or nature to e-mail  
23 addresses at Plaintiffs' Domains and/or email addresses.

24 Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable in the premises.



1 DATED this <sup>9th</sup> day of October, 2007.

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3 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this <sup>9th</sup> day of October, 2007.

4  
5 I.JUSTICE LAW, P.C.


DOUGLAS E. MCKINLEY, JR  
Attorney at Law

6  
7 /S/ Robert J. Siegel  
Robert J. Siegel, WSBA #17312  
Attorney for Plaintiffs

/S/ Douglas E. McKinley, Jr.  
Douglas E. McKinley, Jr., WSBA #20806  
Attorney for Plaintiffs

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10 VERIFICATION

11 I Bennett Haselton, above-named plaintiff, have read the foregoing Complaint and  
12 declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the  
factual basis for the allegations contained herein are true and accurate.  
Signed this <sup>9th</sup> day of October, 2007, at Bellevue, Washington.

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Bennett Haselton, individually and  
15 on behalf of Peacefire, Inc. as its  
president.

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